

Orchard Mead Academy

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Principal: Mr G Aldred

Executive Principal: Mr T Hague

Dear Families,

We are delighted to welcome our Year 11 students back for what is an important and exciting year ahead.

We would like to invite you to our **Welcome to Year 11 Championing GCSE Success Evening on Thursday 10th September, from 5.00pm–7.00pm.**

This is an invaluable evening for both parents and carers and, last year, we were delighted that the majority of parents attended. We strongly encourage you to attend again this year, as the evening will provide you with a clear understanding of what Year 11 will look like for your child, the key events and milestones throughout the year, and, most importantly, how you can best support them as they work towards their GCSEs and next steps.

On the evening, there will be:

5.00pm – Arrival and refreshments: There will be some light refreshments available, and you will also be able to collect your child's End of Year 10 Report.

5.15pm – Welcome from Mrs Finn and the Year 11 Team: This will include an overview of the year ahead, information about key Year 11 events and dates, including mock examinations, revision programmes, interventions, careers and Post-16 applications, as well as important GCSE milestones.

Guidance on how you can support your child at home in English, Maths and Science, including the opportunity to speak to the Heads of Faculty about revision, homework, attendance, organisation and maintaining a positive mindset.

Information about GCSE examinations and preparation, including how students will be supported as they approach the exam period.

5.15pm – An opportunity to meet your child's tutor and discuss their Year 10 report, how this may impact their Post-16 choices and how they are settling into Year 11.

Information about Post-16 pathways and next steps, helping you and your child understand how the work they do this year will support their future choices.

Advice and support from key members of staff, so that you know who to contact if you have questions or concerns during the year.

Year 11 is a significant year, but it is also one in which students can make huge progress and achieve things they may not have thought possible. The collaboration between school, home and the student is crucial, and we want to make sure you feel informed, confident, and equipped to support your child throughout the year.

Words of Encouragement

Last year, we launched our 'Words of Encouragement' initiative with great success. We would love for parents and carers to once again write a personal letter for their child to receive before their first GCSE examination. Your message could include words of reassurance, pride, and motivation, or simply remind them how far they have come and that you believe in them. There will be an opportunity to hand these in at the Welcome to Year 11 evening, as well as other opportunities throughout the year. Please ensure your letter is sealed in an envelope with your child's name clearly written on it.

If you are attending, please complete the simple form and enter your child's name:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/b7DHKjgNZJ>.

We look forward to welcoming you on and starting the Year 11 journey together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Finn

Assistant Principal – Raising Standards

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